

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending August 3, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending August 3, 2003**. More rain fell across most of the State during the week, but not enough to stop irrigating row crops. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 13 percent short, 62 percent adequate and 24 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dough	97	92	98	98	0	2	11	50	37
	Dent	81	63	86	86					
	Mature	18	—	36	40					
	Silage Harvested	63	51	56	50					
Cotton	Squaring	100	96	100	100	2	6	15	51	26
	Setting Bolls	89	77	98	99					
Rice	Heading	84	68	72	69	0	1	12	56	31
	Mature	3	--	3	2					
Sorghum	Heading	98	94	100	97	0	0	14	60	26
	Turning Color	73	50	67	61					
	Mature	15	--	10	10					
Soybeans	Blooming	96	90	96	97	0	3	18	45	34
	Setting Pods	87	78	80	84					
	Turning Color	15	—	10	11					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	73	68	75	71	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Harvested	98	95	96	83	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes						1	3	29	23	44
Cattle						0	3	17	56	24
Pasture						0	2	18	59	21

County Agent Comments

“Corn-cutting started last week with some really good averages so far on dry-land corn. Averages that came in were from 150-198 bushels. We could still use a rain on some of our beans and cotton.”

— Guy Wilson, Washington

“Rains over the weekend have come just in time for some crops, while other areas were not as critical. Cotton is in general 2 to 3 weeks behind schedule, but fruiting is going well and prospects are looking better than a few days ago. Corn is within 2 to 3 weeks of harvest. Soybeans are mostly filling pods now and are dependent on timely rains.”

— Karen Benson, Attala

“Almost daily rains continued through last night. Most cattle producers have a surplus of grass. Baling hay without it being rained on has been next to impossible. Since we have had such good rain the past 10 weeks or so, many are concerned with how dry it may get the next couple of months. The drought summers of 2000 and 2001 have not been forgotten and I have heard very few complaints about too much rain.”

— Clayton Rouse, Lamar

“Strong thunderstorms continue to move through our area at least five days out of the week, dumping massive amounts of water that continue to hamper hay harvest and other field crop activities.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“All blueberries have been harvested. Corn is maturing. Hay yields will be high, but quality will be reduced. Only 40% of the hay has been harvested. Afternoon thunderstorms continue to hamper hay harvesting. Late watermelons and cantaloupe are facing high disease and insect pressure. Cattle are in great condition.”

— Allen Mc Reynolds, Wayne

“Scattered rains have helped growers. Some early soybeans have been harvested with yields ranging from 40-70 bushels. Corn harvest should start this week. Some fields are being treated for insects.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“The county received some much needed rain (.7 to 1.5 inches) this week, and more is needed. Insect pressure in cotton, rice and soybeans is increasing and some insecticide applications have been made for worms and stink bugs.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Anywhere from .5 to 2.5 inches of rain fell this week. We'll take that anytime we can get it this time of year. Soybeans are really responding to all the rainfall that we've had this year. Corn is cutting out pretty fast but hasn't reached full maturity yet, so many producers are still irrigating.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“The recent rains have been helpful for all crops including vegetables. A few isolated cases of worms in cotton have required treatment.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We got 1-1.5 inches of rain and it was needed! We could have used another inch. Worms in conventional cotton continue to be a problem.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Thundershowers brought rains to much of the county mid-week. However, every farm did not receive enough rainfall to stop irrigation. Crops look good except in dry areas of the county.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Hay harvesting has slowed due to the rain.”

— Sonia Hancock, Rankin

“Scattered, as well as general, thundershowers throughout the week slowed cropping activity. Corn is rapidly reaching maturity and soybeans are growing well. Pastures are in excellent shape for this time of year and the rains should put us well on our way to our second hay cutting. Cattle continue to go to market as cattlemen wean calves and cull unproductive animals. Fruits and vegetables are being hit with disease with the sustained moist conditions.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Farmers are busy getting hay up and making plans for planting cool-season grasses.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Hay was harvested at a rapid pace the first of last week. Producers completed corn silage harvesting. Cattle are in excellent condition. Most all of the row crops look really good.”

— Jon Kilgore, Lawrence

“Daily showers have just about stopped all farm work. Hay really needs to be cut. Some cotton is suffering from wet soils. Loggers still can't get into the woods due to wet conditions. Pastures are growing well and cattle are in good shape.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Rain continues to be a problem for cutting hay. If farmers can get four consecutive days of dry weather they can cut and bale a considerable amount of hay, but the quality is greatly reduced by each day that the grass is past its peak nutritional value. If the hay crop is low, there is always the possibility of hay being short this winter and producers will be forced to sell in a market that is already depressed.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from July 28, 2003 to August 3, 2003 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston	97	63	81	81	0	1.83	+1.00	4	4.48				
Cleveland				82		1.95E	+1.50	3	3.17E				
Tunica	94	70	80	82	-2	1.01	+0.36	1	2.72	99	79	87	0.26
Extreme/Average	97	63	80	82	-2	1.60	+0.84	3	3.46	99	79	87	0.26
2. North-Central													
Batesville	94	69	80	80	0	0.74	-0.00	4	2.75				
Calhoun City	92	67	78	81	-3	0.31	-0.50	3	1.41				
Independence				80		2.80	+2.06	2	5.07				
Oxford	97	70	80	80	0	2.30	+1.46	3	2.68				
Extreme/Average	97	67	80	80	0	1.54	+0.69	3	2.98				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	90	67	77	80	-3	2.44	+1.61	5	6.01				
Corinth City				82		2.24E	+1.43	5	4.34E				
Iuka	92	61	76	78	-2	1.07	+0.10	4	3.84				
Ripley				79		3.45	+2.60	4	6.78				
Tupelo	94	69	79			1.30		3	3.51				
Extreme/Average	94	61	77	80	-3	2.10	+1.26	4	4.90				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	95	70	82	82	0	0.89	-0.10	2	1.63	101	83	92	
Rolling Fork	97	70	84	82	+2	0.29	-0.46	2	2.94	106	84	94	
Stoneville	96	71	83	82	+1	1.00	+0.37	2	1.58	102	80	90	0.25
Yazoo City	95	70	82	82	0	0.02	-0.87	1	0.54				
Extreme/Average	97	70	83	82	+1	0.55	-0.27	2	1.67	106	80	92	0.25
5. Central													
Canton	94	69	81	82	-1	2.12	+1.31	2	3.74				
Carthage	93	69	81	81	0	0.90	-0.04	3	2.39				
Eupora	93	67	81	80	+1	1.97	+1.20	5	3.72				
Extreme/Average	94	67	81	81	0	1.66	+0.69	3	3.28				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	92	71	79	81	-2	2.01	+1.28	4	4.46				0.21
Houston	92	64	78	79	-1	2.40	+1.67	4	2.98				
Louisville	91	70	80	80	0	0.56	-0.44	2	2.81				
State University	94	70	81	81	0	3.67	+2.80	4	5.25	87	80	83	0.17
Extreme/Average	94	64	79	81	-2	2.16	+1.17	4	3.88	87	80	83	0.17
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	95	70	82	82	0	0.96	+0.13	2	4.02	90	82	85	
Natchez	92	72	83	82	+1	0.07	-0.77	2	2.77				
Oakley	96	66	82	81	+1	1.49	+0.65	3	2.35	100	83	91	
Vicksburg	93	73	83			0.00		0	2.08				
Extreme/Average	96	66	83	81	+2	0.63	-0.38	2	2.81	100	82	88	
8. South-Central													
Collins	93	70	82	81	+1	0.65	-0.37	3	4.30				
Columbia	94	71	83	82	+1	0.32	-0.85	2	2.96				
Tylertown	92	69	82	81	+1	1.65	+0.40	4	9.57				
Extreme/Average	94	69	82	81	+1	0.87	-0.32	3	5.61				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	94	68	81			2.47		2	5.10				
Hattiesburg	91	67	80	82	-2	1.56	+0.33	5	4.52				
Laurel	92	70	81	82	-1	0.85	-0.27	4	4.38				
Newton	92	67	80	81	-1	1.16	+0.14	4	6.61	87	75	80	0.21
Extreme/Average	94	67	81	81	0	1.51	+0.36	4	5.15	87	75	80	0.21
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	95	68	82	82	0	2.23	+0.63	4	7.48				
Gulfport	88	72	81	83	-2	3.08	+1.62	6	6.20				
Pascagoula				81		2.10E	+0.52	2	4.69E				
Poplarville	93	69	81	82	-1	1.46	+0.06	3	7.50	79	76	78	0.22
Waveland	91	72	82	82	0	0.92	-0.44	4	6.42				
Extreme/Average	95	68	81	82	-1	1.96	+0.49	4	6.90	79	76	78	0.22
State	97	61	81	81	0	1.43	+0.43	3	3.98	106	75	85	0.23

DFN = Departure from Normal.